THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY) (a) to (d) The communities notified as Scheduled Tribes under Article 342 of the Constitution may profess any religion. The list of Scheduled Tribes is State/UT specific and any inclusion/exclusion/modification in the list of Scheduled Tribes of any State/UT may be done only after the concerned State Government/UT Administration sends the proposal and is agreed by the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes. Further, All communities notified as Scheduled Tribes, irrespective of the religion being professed by their members, are entitled to avail the benefits meant for the Scheduled Tribes.

Complaints regarding ST certificates

3332. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints during 2008-09 regarding people taking advantage of privileges of Scheduled Tribes by producing fake certificates;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government; and

(c) what measures Government intends to take to stop this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) During 2008-09 the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has received references for verification of Scheduled Tribe's Certificates from different Ministries/Departments/ Organizations etc. As the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal Ministry for specification of Scheduled Tribes under Article 342 of the Constitution and the issuance and verification of Caste Certificates rests with the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations, the Ministry has, therefore, referred these cases to the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations for appropriate action.

(c) The Government of India has issued various circulars from time to time for proper issuance and verification of Scheduled Tribe's Certificates. Following the decision of the apex court in the case of Kumari Madhuri Patil and others *Vs*. State of Maharashtra and others, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has again circulated in June, 2004, the instructions of the Supreme Court to streamline the procedure for the issuance of social status certificates, their scrutiny and their approval to all State Government/UT Administrations.

Inclusion of Dhangar community in the list of ST

3333. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Goa Government has proposed to include Dhangar community in the list of Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the status of the proposal; and

(c) the details of reasons as to why such a genuine original tribal community has been left out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Goa has sent a proposal to include Gouly (Dhangar) community in the list of Scheduled Tribes. The proposal along-with further justification has been referred to the Registrar General of India in terms of the modalities approved by Government of India on 15.06.99.

Mining rights in tribal areas

3334. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any policy of Government for protection and promotion of interests of Scheduled Tribes of Jharkhand while granting mining rights in tribal areas; and

(b) if so, the details of the policy and its impact and implications on the Scheduled Tribes of Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHARBHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) No separate Policy has been framed for protection and promotion of interests of Scheduled Tribes of Jharkhand while granting mining rights in Tribal Areas. However, the Government has enunciated the National Mineral Policy, 2008, which seeks to develop a sustainable framework for optimum utilisation of the country's natural mineral resources for the industrial growth in the country and at the same time improve the life of the people living in the mining areas, which are generally located in the backward and tribal regions of the country. The Policy also enunciates that efforts will be made to promote small scale mining of small deposits in a scientific and efficient manner, while safeguarding vital environmental and ecological imperatives, and while granting mineral concessions for small deposits in Scheduled Areas, preference shall be given to Scheduled Tribes singly or as cooperatives.

Business establishments for STs and SCs

3335. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that out of 51 per cent business establishments owned by socially disadvantaged sections, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are having a slim contribution;

(b) if so, whether a special drive would be launched to equip SCs/STs financially, attitudinally, well-structured training, etc., so that like OBCs, they also gradually increase their share of owning business establishments; and